

Marlin

Jackpile Reclamation Project

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA

P.O. BOX 184

LAGUNA, NEW MEXICO 87028

Office of
Reclamation Project Manager

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RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATE AS OF Aug. 21, 1991

TO: Governor Harry Early

FROM: Jim Olsen, Jr., P.E.-RPM/PoL



- 1) The July, 1991 Status Report was distributed.
- 2) Secretary Lujan's visit was well received. Additional photos and copies of the video will be obtained and stored with the Project records.
- 3) If any of the salvaged buildings are to be given out, please send the authorization to this Office. It will be necessary to have Eberline come out and check the materials so they can be cleared of any potential contamination.
- 4) A copy of the Albuquerque Journal coverage of Monday's site visit is attached.
- 5) The Sixth Environmental Monitoring Report was distributed.
- 6) Soil placement continues in the South Paguete area. The dozers were pulled off the North Jackpile dump to help with spreading soil. The scrapers continued the shale backfill/cover in SP-OP-34. Three dozers were transported to Haystack Mountain for some cleanup work for EPA. Work resumed on August 20 following the Aug. 19 shutdown due to rain.
- 7) The Landmark trailer will be purchased for \$250 and will be available for use by either POL or BIA-Laguna Agency as previously mentioned.

CONFIDENTIAL CLAIM RETRACTED

DATE: 5/16/13 AUTHORIZED BY: 



9322297

BUSINESS

Tuesday, August 20, 1991

Albuquerque Journal

Mine Reclamation Ahead of Schedule

By Michael Hartranft

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

LAGUNA PUEBLO — Reclamation of the world's largest open pit uranium mine is ahead of schedule, below budget and generating spin-off work for the company the Laguna Pueblo formed to undertake the project.

That's what Laguna officials told Secretary of Interior Manuel Lujan Jr. during a Monday briefing on clean-up progress at the Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine. Lujan was accompanied by Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Eddie Brown.

A tour of the 2,600-acre mine site was shortened because heavy overnight rains had shut down the project's earthmoving activity.

The mine, which consisted of three open pits and nine underground mines, was operated by the Anaconda Minerals Corp. from 1951 until 1982 when the uranium market collapsed. At one time, it employed about 400 tribal members.

The tribe subsequently negotiated a \$43.6 million settlement with Anaconda to reclaim the mine and formed the Laguna Construction Co. in 1988.

The company employs about 60 people, most of them tribal members experienced in heavy construction equipment use gained when the mine was open.

For nearly 19 months, crews have resloped and stabilized the walls of the open pits, buried unused low-grade uranium piles and reseeded the area. Vents to the underground mines have been closed.

A briefing paper given to Lujan and Brown stated the project is about 11 months ahead of schedule and 13 percent below the projected cost for this stage of the project.

Neal Kasper, Laguna Construction president and general manager, said the work should be finished in mid-1995.

Kasper said the company is ready to start a clean-up project at a uranium mining site 10 miles north of Milan on Navajo allotted land. By



DEAN HANSON / JOURNAL

Laguna Pueblo Gov. Harry Early, center, describes the uranium mine reclamation project for Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan Jr., right, and Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Eddie Brown.

the time the Laguna project is finished, the company should be broadly involved in other projects, he said.

Lujan said, "It wouldn't surprise me that they (Laguna Construction)

would end up doing work all over the United States."

Because of the project, the pueblo has been nominated for an Innovation Award in the President's Environment and Conservation Challenge Awards to be made this fall.

RPM SUSPENSE LOG

as of 8/21/91

ITEM ****	STATUS *****	EST. COMPLETION *****	REMARKS *****
Building Salvage & Removal	need Council directive	pending the fencing completion	Further demolition/salvage @ P-10
POL	BIA requesting old trailer & P-10 Engineering Building		request being forwarded to
3rd Quarter Financial Report	for BIA as per Coop. Agreement	9/15/91	gathering data from various institutions
Secretary Lujan coordinating and Dept. of Interior	Site Visit Jackpile Project	8/19/91	LCC itinerary completed
8/19/91			

RPM Suspense log Cont'd for 8/21/91

ITEM ****	STATUS *****	EST. COMPLETION *****	REMARKS *****
Weather Station change out	Qualimetrics contacted to refund the purchase price	5/31/91	Qualimetrics has offered to supply a new unit at no cost;
	awaiting delivery		
Revision of the Project Management Plan	work with Allen Sedik	9/30/91	to update the Cooperative Agreement provisions; will submit to Council with 3rd Year Plan;
3rd Year Operating Plan		10/31/91	setting up schedules with LCC & BIA;